

The Honorable Robert S. Lasnik

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON AT SEATTLE

LIKA OUNG AND SOPHY LONG, husband
and wife, and the marital community thereof,

Plaintiffs,

v.

ALLSTATE FIRE & CASUALTY
INSURANCE COMPANY, a foreign
corporation, and SWAMY BALAKRISHNAN
aka BALAKRISHNAN SWAMY and "JANE
DOE" BALAKRISHNAN aka "JANE DOE"
SWAMY, a marital community,

Defendants.

No. 2:16-cv-01200-RSL

**STIPULATED
PROTECTIVE ORDER**

I. PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS

Discovery in this action is likely to involve production of confidential, proprietary, or private information for which special protection may be warranted. Accordingly, the parties hereby stipulate to and petition the court to enter the following Stipulated Protective Order. The parties acknowledge that this agreement is consistent with LCR 26(c). It does not confer blanket protection on all disclosures or responses to discovery, the protection it affords from public disclosure and use extends only to the limited information or items that are entitled to confidential

STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER
(2:16-cv-01200-RSL) - 1

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1 treatment under the applicable legal principles, and it does not presumptively entitle parties to file
2 confidential information under seal.

3 **II. "CONFIDENTIAL" MATERIAL**

4 "Confidential" material shall include the following documents and tangible thing produced
5 or otherwise exchanged: (1) all of Allstate's claims handling manuals, claim bulletins, guidelines,
6 training materials, or procedures, whether written or oral; (2) any trade secret or proprietary
7 business information related to the processing or handling of insurance claims; (3) other
8 confidential personal or proprietary information of Allstate, such as personal employee
9 information, and other confidential business information that may be requested in discovery; and
10 (4) to the extent not included above, materials that reflect principles, practices, plans or policies
11 related to Allstate's business operations that were not previously disclosed to the public.
12

13 **III. SCOPE**

14 The protections conferred by this agreement cover not only confidential material (as
15 defined above), but also (1) any information copied or extracted from confidential material; (2) all
16 copies, excerpts, summaries, or compilations of confidential material; and (3) any testimony,
17 conversations, or presentations by parties or their counsel that might reveal confidential material.
18 However, the protections conferred by this agreement do not cover information that is in the public
19 domain or becomes part of the public domain through trial or otherwise.
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21 **IV. ACCESS TO AND USE OF CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL**

22 4.1. Basic Principles. A receiving party may use confidential material that is disclosed
23 or produced by another party or by a non-party in connection with this case only for prosecuting,
24 defending, or attempting to settle this litigation. Confidential material may be disclosed only to
25 the categories of persons and under the conditions described in this agreement. Confidential
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1 material must be stored and maintained by a receiving party at a location and in a secure manner
2 that ensures that access is limited to the persons authorized under this agreement.

3 4.2. Disclosure of "CONFIDENTIAL" Information or Items. Unless otherwise ordered
4 by the court or permitted in writing by the designating party, a receiving party may disclose any
5 confidential material only to:

6 (a) the receiving party's counsel of record in this action, as well as employees of
7 counsel to whom it is reasonably necessary to disclose the information for this litigation;

8 (b) the officers, directors, and employees (including in house counsel) of the receiving
9 party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation, unless the parties agree that a
10 particular document or material produced is for Attorney's Eyes Only and is so designated;

11 (c) experts and consultants to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this
12 litigation and who have signed the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" (**Exhibit A**);

13 (d) the court, court personnel, and court reporters and their staff;

14 (e) copy or imaging services retained by counsel to assist in the duplication of
15 confidential material, provided that counsel for the party retaining the copy or imaging service
16 instructs the service not to disclose any confidential material to third parties and to immediately
17 return all originals and copies of any confidential material;

18 (f) during their depositions, witnesses in the action to whom disclosure is reasonably
19 necessary and who have signed the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" (**Exhibit A**),
20 unless otherwise agreed by the designating party or ordered by the court. Pages of transcribed
21 deposition testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal confidential material must be separately
22 bound by the court reporter and may not be disclosed to anyone except as permitted under this
23 agreement;
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STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER
(2:16-cv-01200-RSL) - 3

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(g) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a custodian or other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information.

4.3. Filing Confidential Material. Before filing confidential material or discussing or referencing such material in court filings, the filing party shall confer with the designating party to determine whether the designating party will remove the confidential designation, whether the document can be redacted, or whether a motion to seal or stipulation and proposed order is warranted. Local Civil Rule 5(g) sets forth the procedures that must be followed and the standards that will be applied when a party seeks permission from the court to file material under seal.

V. DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL

5.1. Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for Protection. Each party or non-party that designates information or items for protection under this agreement must take care to limit any such designation to specific material that qualifies under the appropriate standards. The designating party must designate for protection only those parts of material, documents, items, or oral or written communications that qualify, so that other portions of the material, documents, items, or communications for which protection is not warranted are not swept unjustifiably within the ambit of this agreement.

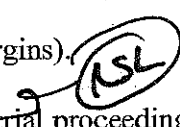
5.2. Mass, indiscriminate, or routinized designations are prohibited. Designations that are shown to be clearly unjustified or that have been made for an improper purpose (e.g., to unnecessarily encumber or delay the case development process or to impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) expose the designating party to sanctions.

If it comes to a designating party's attention that information or items that it designated for protection do not qualify for protection, the designating party must promptly notify all other parties that it is withdrawing the mistaken designation.

STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER
(2:16-cv-01200-RSL) - 4

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1 5.3. Manner and Timing of Designations. Except as otherwise provided in this
2 agreement (see, e.g., second paragraph of section 5.2(a) below), or as otherwise stipulated or
3 ordered, disclosure or discovery material that qualifies for protection under this agreement must
4 be clearly so designated before or when the material is disclosed or produced.

5 (a) Information in documentary form: (e.g., paper or electronic documents and
6 deposition exhibits, but excluding transcripts of depositions or other pretrial or trial proceedings),
7 the designating party must affix the word "CONFIDENTIAL—SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE
8 ORDER" to each page that contains confidential material. If only a portion or portions of the
9 material on a page qualifies for protection, the producing party also must clearly identify the
10 protected portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate markings in the margins). 

11 (b) Testimony given in deposition or in other pretrial or trial proceedings: the parties
12 must identify on the record, during the deposition, hearing, or other proceeding, all protected
13 testimony, without prejudice to their right to so designate other testimony after reviewing the
14 transcript. Any party or non-party may, within fifteen days after receiving a deposition transcript,
15 designate portions of the transcript, or exhibits thereto, as confidential.

16 (c) Other tangible items: the producing party must affix in a prominent place on the
17 exterior of the container or containers in which the information or item is stored the word
18 "CONFIDENTIAL." If only a portion or portions of the information or item warrant protection,
19 the producing party, to the extent practicable, shall identify the protected portion(s).

20 5.4. Inadvertent Failures to Designate. If timely corrected, an inadvertent failure to
21 designate qualified information or items does not, standing alone, waive the designating party's
22 right to secure protection under this agreement for such material. Upon timely correction of a
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1 designation, the receiving party must make reasonable efforts to ensure that the material is treated
2 in accordance with the provisions of this agreement.

3 **VI. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS**

4 6.1. Timing of Challenges. Any party or non-party may challenge a designation of
5 confidentiality at any time. Unless a prompt challenge to a designating party's confidentiality
6 designation is necessary to avoid foreseeable, substantial unfairness, unnecessary economic
7 burdens, or a significant disruption or delay of the litigation, a party does not waive its right to
8 challenge a confidentiality designation by electing not to mount a challenge promptly after the
9 original designation is disclosed.

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11 6.2. Meet and Confer. The parties must make every attempt to resolve any dispute
12 regarding confidential designations without court involvement. Any motion regarding confidential
13 designations or for a protective order must include a certification, in the motion or in a declaration
14 or affidavit, that the movant has engaged in a good faith meet and confer conference with other
15 affected parties in an effort to resolve the dispute without court action. The certification must list
16 the date, manner, and participants to the conference. A good faith effort to confer requires a face-
17 to-face meeting or a telephone conference.

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19 6.3. Judicial Intervention. If the parties cannot resolve a challenge without court
20 intervention, the designating party may file and serve a motion to retain confidentiality under Local
21 Civil Rule 7 (and in compliance with Local Civil Rule 5(g), if applicable). The burden of
22 persuasion in any such motion shall be on the designating party. Frivolous challenges, and those
23 made for an improper purpose (e.g., to harass or impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on
24 other parties) may expose the challenging party to sanctions. All parties shall continue to maintain
25 the material in question as confidential until the court rules on the challenge.
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STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER
(2:16-cv-01200-RSL) - 6

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VII. PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED PRODUCED IN OTHER LITIGATION

If a party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation that compels disclosure of any information or items designated in this action as "CONFIDENTIAL," that party must:

(a) promptly notify the designating party in writing and include a copy of the subpoena or court order;

(b) promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order to issue in the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the subpoena or order is subject to this agreement. Such notification shall include a copy of this agreement; and

(c) cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be pursued by the designating party whose confidential material may be affected.

VIII. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

If a receiving party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has disclosed confidential material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under this agreement, the receiving party must immediately (a) notify in writing the designating party of the unauthorized disclosures, (b) use its best efforts to retrieve all unauthorized copies of the protected material, (c) inform the person or persons to whom unauthorized disclosures were made of all the terms of this agreement, and (d) request that such person or persons execute the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" that is attached hereto as **Exhibit A**.

IX. INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE PROTECTED MATERIAL

When a producing party gives notice to receiving parties that certain inadvertently produced material is subject to a claim of privilege or other protection, the obligations of the

1 receiving parties are those set forth in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(5)(B). This provision
2 is not intended to modify whatever procedure may be established in an e-discovery order or
3 agreement that provides for production without prior privilege review. Parties shall confer on an
4 appropriate non-waiver order under Fed. R. Evid. 502.

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6 **X. NON TERMINATION AND RETURN OF DOCUMENTS**

7 Within 60 days after the termination of this action, including all appeals, each receiving
8 party must return all confidential material to the producing party, including all copies, extracts and
9 summaries thereof, all copies stored in or by data processing equipment, and any emails in which
10 the confidential information was transmitted. Alternatively, the parties may agree upon
11 appropriate methods of destruction.

12 Notwithstanding this provision, counsel are entitled to retain one archival copy of all
13 documents filed with the court, trial, deposition, and hearing transcripts, correspondence,
14 deposition and trial exhibits, expert reports, attorney work product, and consultant and expert work
15 product, even if such materials contain confidential material, however, the confidential material
16 shall not be disclosed to any person other than the discovering counsel's partners, associates, and
17 employees, and shall not be used for any purpose.

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19 The confidentiality obligations imposed by this agreement shall remain in effect until a
20 designating party agrees otherwise in writing or a court orders otherwise.

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22 IT IS SO STIPULATED, THROUGH COUNSEL OF RECORD.

23 KELLER ROHRBACK L.L.P.

24
25 By 

26 Brian Russell, WSBA #10715
Attorneys for Plaintiffs

By 

Irene M. Hecht, WSBA #11063
Michael G. Howard, WSBA #31808
Attorneys for Defendant Allstate Fire and
Casualty Insurance Company

STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER
(2:16-cv-01200-RSL) - 8

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1 PURSUANT TO STIPULATION, IT IS SO ORDERED.

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3 DONE IN OPEN COURT this 3rd day of March, 2017.

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6 By 
7 THE HONORABLE ROBERT S. LASNIK
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STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER
(2:16-cv-01200-RSL) - 9

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EXHIBIT A

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
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SWAMY, a marital community,

Defendants.

No. 2:16-cv-01200-RSL

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND
AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND**

I, _____ [print or type full name], of

_____ [print or type full address],

declare under penalty of perjury that I have read in its entirety and understand the Stipulated

Protective Order that was issued by the United States District Court for the Western District of

Washington on _____ [date] in the case of LIKA OUNG AND SOPHY LONG v.

ALLSTATE FIRE AND CASUALTY INSURANCE COMPANY, ET AL., Cause No. 2:16-cv-

01200-RSL. I agree to comply with and to be bound by all the terms of this Stipulated Protective

Order and I understand and acknowledge that failure to so comply could expose me to sanctions

STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER
(2:16-cv-01200-RSL) - 10

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1 and punishment in the nature of contempt. I solemnly promise that I will not disclose in any
2 manner any information or item that is subject to this Stipulated Protective Order to any person or
3 entity except in strict compliance with the provisions of this Order.

4 I further agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the
5 Western District of Washington for the purpose of enforcing the terms of this Stipulated Protective
6 Order, even if such enforcement proceedings occur after termination of this action
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8 SWORN and SIGNED this ____ day of _____, 201__ at _____,
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11 By _____
12 Print Name:
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STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER
(2:16-cv-01200-RSL) - 11

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